



The Appleton School

A Business and Enterprise Specialist College

Headteacher's Bulletin to Parents



May 2008

Dear Parents

It seems incredible that we are about to complete our first half-term of the Summer Term.

I know you will be interested in many of the developments contained within this Bulletin.

The Appleton Grand Ball

Year 11 said goodbye, in style, to The Appleton School on 9th May with the annual Appleton Grand Ball.

Over 200 students took part in the evening, all dressed in formal wear. It was a delight to be part of their celebrations and was a fitting end to their five years at The Appleton School.

There were approximately 400 members of the local community watching Year 11 arrive – most in stretch limos but also one group in a horse and carriage.

This really was Benfleet's Big Night Out!

Thank you to our team of parent helpers, and **Mrs Halley**, for organising this superb occasion.

We wish Year 11 well in their forthcoming GCSE Examinations.



Work Experience

Year 10 students have also just returned from their Work Experience placements.

Students in Year 10 have been working in shops, schools, offices and other places of employment for the last three weeks.



We have now received feedback from the employers on our Year 10 and over 95% of our year group were awarded 'Excellent'.

Congratulations to **Mrs Farrance** and her team for ensuring that all our students had successful placements.

Intake for September 2008

Over Subscription – We have now received details of all of our new Year 7 who will begin with us in September.

Once more, the School is over-subscribed with a waiting list of students who want places at The Appleton School for September.

We do now hold waiting lists for every year group. This is due to the very good reputation of the School, the outstanding recent OFSTED subject report and our excellent examination results.

If you know you are likely to be moving out of the area at any time in the future, it would be useful if you could let **Mr Clarke (Deputy Head)** know as soon as possible so that we can make provisional offers of places to those on our waiting list. This would save Mr Clarke and myself a

great deal of time, as each time we turn down a student for entry to our school, because we are full, we have to go to an Independent Appeals Panel. This usually takes an hour per case!

Uniform

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents of our uniform policy.

This is located very clearly on the school's website – www.theappletonschool.org/student/uniform. If you require a paper copy please contact the school office who will forward you a copy.

We are very aware that uniform, particularly on the way into school, is not as good as it should be.

Would you please ensure that your child leaves home in the correct uniform with a school blazer.

We have emphasised the importance of uniform in our Assemblies this week and after our half-term we will be taking decisive action on those students who are not complying with our school policy. This will include after-school detentions.

I would ask that you work with us to ensure that we not only have the best academic standards in the area but that we also have the smartest students!

Basketball National Finals

All Stars Dazzle to Win National Championship

After seeing off strong opposition from **Suffolk, Norfolk and Kent** in the regional rounds of the **English Schools' Basketball National Development League**, on **Saturday, 3rd May** the **Year 10 Appleton Basketball Team** made their way by coach to **Nottingham** for the National Finals.

The team were accompanied by **Ms Parsons, Mr Sultana, Mr Atkins** and a number of parents.

The atmosphere on the coach was one of nervousness and excitement.

The format of the competition meant that the All Stars would have to play two matches; one against a team from Cornwall and one against a team from Colchester.

The first game was against **Paignton School, Cornwall**. After easing into an early lead, the All Stars found that the opposition started to come back and the game became very tight.

However, towards the end of the second half the All Stars reasserted their early dominance and strode out **43-34 winners**.



As a result, the Appleton All Stars became National Champions.

The atmosphere on the coach home was one of jubilant celebration!

The All Stars team consists of **Chris Marsh, Danny Mole, Olamide Dawodu, Elliott Dean, Samuel Anderson, Jamie Haddon, Spencer Gilbert, Chris Keep, Alex Dean** and **Moses Dawodu** and are coached by **Daniel Seaman**.

Well done to you all!

For information about training and matches please see the notice board outside the Sports Hall in the PE building.

New York Trip 2008

On arrival at school at **4:15am** on **Tuesday, 6th May**, 20 excited students and 2 members of staff boarded the coach to **Heathrow** to catch their flight to **JFK Airport New York**.

Once they had checked in to their hotel, **The Hotel Grand Union** situated in **Midtown Manhattan**, they set out to explore the local area until the time came for their evening visit to New York's tallest building the **Empire State Building**.

They took the lift to the 86th floor where on the observation deck you can see the amazing views of NYC for miles around.



The following day they took the subway to **Wall Street** in **Lower Manhattan** to walk through this famous financial district. They saw the **New York Stock Exchange** and our group stopped to pay their respects at **Ground Zero** where they are now building a monument. Our group then took the Ferry to **Liberty Island** to visit the **Statue of Liberty**.



To end the day they took the subway to **Canal Street** and walked through to **Chinatown** stopping then at **Little Italy** for something to eat before heading onto busy **Times Square**.

On Thursday, they were given a guided tour around the **United Nations** building.

The United Nations is well known for its peace keeping and humanitarian efforts.

The 192 member states and various organizations work together to

promote respect for [human rights](#), protect the [environment](#), [fight disease](#) and [reduce poverty](#).

That evening, they all got dressed up to go to **Broadway** where they ate at **Planet Hollywood** and saw the brilliant show '**Mary Poppins**'.

The last day ended their trip with a Business workshop and tour of **Macy's** which is the world's largest store and then had some spare time to shop before heading back to JFK for their evening flight home.

Overall a very tiring but exhilarating few days!

International Day

Business & Enterprise Day **4th July 2008**

We have decided that this year's Business and Enterprise day on 4th July will have an International theme and as such all our students will be off timetable and will be taking part in various events that have been organised.

On the day, over **300** of our **Year 7, 8 and 9** students, and staff, will be going on a day trip to either **France** or **Belgium**, where they will be visiting various sights, whilst those that are remaining in school will be involved in three different activities that range from watching an African production about life in Africa, to Enterprise activities such as team building and problem solving.

Our **Year 10** students and their tutors will be spending the day at **SEEVIC College** (further information to Year 10 parents will be sent nearer the time) where they will be taking part in events that will be put on by SEEVIC.

Making Good Progress – The First Year !

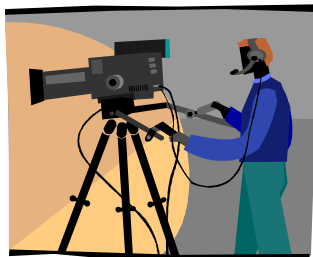
It has been a very busy and exciting first year of the Making Good Progress pilot at The Appleton School. The pilot is part of a national initiative from the **DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families)** to look at maximising the number of children who make two levels progress from **Year 7 to Year 9**.

This pilot, which is being trialled nationally across 500 schools and 10 Local Authorities, is also investigating the possible replacement of the Key Stage 3 SATs with **Single Level Tests (SLTs)**. The Appleton School is a lead school, for Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Part of the pilot has already involved over 60 students in Years 7-9 receiving additional Government funded tutoring in **English** and **Mathematics**.

Indeed, the DCSF have been so impressed with the work that has been going on in both classrooms and the tutoring programme that they have made several visits to The Appleton School to talk to students, teachers and tutors about the excellent progress that is being made.

As well as Government Ministers, The Appleton School were also privileged to have been visited from representatives of the **Prime Minister's team** who were reporting directly back to **Gordon Brown** about the exciting developments at The Appleton School.



In addition, during last term the School was turned in to a television studio for the day when a film crew came to The Appleton School! The film crew interviewed both students and staff about the Making Good Progress pilot and the resulting documentary that was produced was used at the **National Headteachers' Conference**.

Individual Learning Plan

The Appleton School are piloting an Individual Learning Plan for each child in Years 10 & 11 from September. The Plan will be required by colleges as students progress post-16 and should contain all students' achievements including any certificates gained out of school. The

Plan will also be used to guide students in future career choices and will be required by employers in the future.

Science and Engineering Club

The Young Science and Engineers' Club started again last week and we hope to launch the rockets on **Tuesday, 3rd June**.



"Rocket Man" – **John Jacoby** will hopefully be in school to help this to take place, without any hitches!

After this event, **Miss Harvey** from our Science Area will be working with the students in the club to build solar-powered buggies to climb a ramp.

This will be a competition to do with which team can build the best buggy from Lego and which team can store up the most solar energy from a light bulb in a tin foil box.

Parental Questionnaire Feedback

Parents will be aware that at each Parents' Consultative Evening, we have been inviting parents to give their views on the School's performance.

I am delighted to be in a position to share those findings with you from the Parents' Evenings so far this year.

The results were as follows :

- 99% of parents thought The Appleton School was a good school to be at.**
- 98% of parents thought their child had been taught well**
- 99% of parents thought that teachers expected their child to work hard**
- 95% of parents thought their child's work was assessed helpfully**
- 96% of parents thought their child behaved well in school**

- 95% of parents thought there was an adult their child could talk to**
- 95% of parents thought that all students were treated fairly and with respect**
- 96% of parents thought that their child was trusted to do things on their own**
- 95% of parents thought that the school was interested in the views of its students**
- 94% of parents thought that worthwhile homework was set**
- 94% of parents thought that the school effectively dealt with bullying issues**
- 99% of parents thought that the school was well run**

Clearly, our survey shows the very high satisfaction levels parents have with The Appleton School.

The survey represents the views of over 450 parents. We will continue to survey at each Parents' Evening next year and would encourage all parents to submit completed questionnaires.

Local Authority Evaluation of The Appleton School

Many of you will be aware that all Secondary Schools have a School Improvement Partner who works with the Head and the Leadership Team on issues connected with school improvement.

The Local Authority funds and runs the **School Improvement Partner Programme** across Essex. One of the roles of the School Improvement Partner is to categorise the school according to OFSTED criteria and report back to the Local Authority.

I am delighted to be able to inform you that The Appleton School has been judged **OUTSTANDING** by the Local Authority.

Karen Kerridge

National Teaching Awards

Parents will be interested to learn that several of our staff were nominated for the National award of Teacher of the Year. The teachers who were nominated were as follows :

Mr N Binfield Miss S Cox
 Ms G Clark Mrs J Hargate
 Mr J Gill Ms S Parsonson
 Mrs I Greenslade

Members of staff were nominated by either students or parents for their outstanding work both inside and outside of the classroom.

Well done to all those staff who were nominated.

I am sure all parents appreciate that our staff are inspirational and it was particularly pleasing for the staff involved to be nominated by our students or their parents.

PARENTPAY AND CASHLESS CATERING

If you have lost your password for your ParentPay account please contact the school to request a new one.

You can use your account to view the balance remaining on your son/daughter's catering account, and to view daily menus until the end of term. You can also view details of cheque/cash payments made for trips etc.

Please allow 24 hours for payments to go to the student's catering account.

As we now have a reduced amount of cash in school, the offices are unable to give change.

LOST PROPERTY

Clothing - at the end of each term
All other items (including jewellery/glasses, etc.) - at the end of the Summer term

We will make every effort to return found items to their owners and therefore ask that you name all clothing/shoes/PE bags/pencil cases etc to assist us with this. Parents are welcome to come in, after school, to check the lost property.

MOBILE PHONES AND PERSONAL STEREOS

Could I please take the opportunity to remind parents that we do not encourage students to bring mobile phones into school.

The school accepts no responsibility for mobile phones and if students are found using a phone in school they will have this removed.

I understand that many parents wish students to carry phones for personal safety reasons but can I please ask you to reinforce with your child that these should not be used on the school site.

Personal stereos, Ipods and MP3 players should not be brought into school at all. If students are found using these items they will have them removed.

Mrs K Kerridge, Headteacher

ABSENCE CALLS :

To report a student absence, please telephone the school on **Ext. 225** or e-mail –
 jwilliams@theappletonschool.org
 Thank you.

Reminder re. system for absence calls –

Parents will receive a text message in the first instance on a child's absence, followed by telephone calls, which will continue until the end of the school day, or until the school receives a response from parents. Parents can also be contacted re. Consultatives, coursework deadlines, etc.

Please make sure your child's contact telephone numbers are up to date and inform the school immediately of any changes. Any queries with the above, please contact **Mrs A Cruise, Assistant Headteacher**

STUDENTS SIGNING OUT :

Can I please remind parents that students who need to leave school during the day for doctor and dental appointments, interviews, etc. must have their note with them, signed by a parent/guardian, and initialled by their Form Tutor, when they sign out at **Student Services**.

Important Dates

Half-Term – 26 th – 30 th May 2008	
Mon 2 nd June	School begins 8.40 am
Tues 3 rd June	Parents' Group Meeting
Fri 6th June	INSET Day 5
Weds 11 th June	15.30 – 18.30 Y7 (1-4) Consultative
Weds 18 th June	15.30 – 18.30 Y7 (5-8) Consultative
Thurs 19 th June	19.00 – 21.00 Y7/8 Disco
Fri 20 th June	Y11 Clearance Day (late start for Yrs 7-10) 9.40 am
Mon 23 rd June	Yr 10 Exams
Thurs 26 th June	19.30 Welcome Evening (Yr 6)
Tues 1 st July	Welcome Day for new students (Yr 6)
Fri 4 th July	Whole School Industry Day
Fri 11 th and Sat 12 th July	School Production 'Little Shop of Horrors'
Thurs 17 th July	19.30 Yr 7 Presentation Evening
Weds 23 rd July	End of Term – 12.05

AUTUMN TERM

Mon 1st Sept	INSET DAY 1
Tues 2 nd Sept	New Year 7 begin at 11.55
Weds 3 rd Sept	School begins for all years at 8.40

AUTUMN TERM DATES

2nd Sept – 19th December 2008

Half-Term – 27th – 31st October 08

SPRING TERM DATES

6th January – 3rd April 2009

Half-Term – 16th – 20th February 09

Spring Holiday – 6th – 17th April 09

SUMMER TERM DATES

20th April – 17th July 2009

Half-Term – 25th – 29th May 2009

May Bank Holiday – 4th May 2009